N Orleans Aug 14th 1846

My Dear Mother

Your Letter was duly rec'd & rejoiced as much as it told of your health & happiness & that of other relatives at the North. and because it contained a bit of advice which is always gratefully received as coming from our Mother. I think I feel grateful to God that he disposes you to remember me daily in your prayers that He would use me as an instrument in building up the Kingdom of the Redeemer in this City. More than I have been accustomed I have kept, I think, an Eye on the Exercises of my mind & I am perfectly willing to allow that if God spare my life to three score years and ten I shall see more of the vanity of this world than I do now. But so far as I have attained a weanedness from this world and a desire for a better one which is an heavenly- I wish to hold fast- thank God for it— and go on according to Apostolic rule till the world became crucified to me and I to it. Through the blessing of

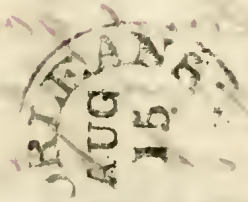
our Heavenly Father we have all enjoyed a comfortable measure of health up to the present time. My health has never been better anywhere than it has been here I know not that I have lost a single meal since my return and not only so I feel vigorous & heart whole. It has been a delightful summer—pretty warm—but not so warm as some days at the North. There have been as yet no cases of yellow fever well authenticated & we have some hope that we shall pass another healthy season. Mrs Preston has complained some of the warm weather—especially in the morning has felt weak and languid—but in the main I think she is as well here as she would be Stationary anywhere. Lucy is a pretty good girl likes N Orleans very much—complains now and then of the mosquitoes & has been a little sick for a few days—nothing serious and is now quite well again. So far as we can learn we are all growing in the esteem and affection of our flock and the people generally so far as we have become acquainted. Our Sunday School numbers this summer about 90 in attendance. The congregation very fair with every prospect of a large increase the coming winter. Since we came here last Nov there have been put up and are now building 15 fine dwellings in the vicinity of our Church. The city is growing rapidly—what it is destined to become the Lord only knows. May He grant it to be as famous for godliness & piety as it has been for wickedness. I do not perceive from your letter that you have made your visit to Massachusetts. I venture to propose therefore that you come out and spend the winter with us. We have no room a very comfortable house—no boarders. It would do your soul good to spend a season here—There is a good degree of zeal among christians & much harmony in the churches. But I suppose we shall have to come and see you. This we may do next season. I am appointed a delegate to the General Convention which meets in N York city a year from next Oct. But who knows what a day may bring forth much less a year. All send love to all. Write soon again.

Your affectionate Son

N. O. Preston

Tell Lester Mary if she will make us a visit I will learn her how to write for I suppose she must know by gotten I think of her very often

Mrs Mary A Preston
Governeur
St Lawrence Co
N. York



Till Preston & Wife to train up the child for the use
There is a fearful accountability wrapped up in that "precious gift"

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